

PUBLIC NOTICE

TO ALL INTERESTED GROUPS, PERSONS AND AGENCIES

CITY OF NORTHAMPTON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) PROGRAM PUBLIC HEARINGS - REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS - CDBG ACTION PLAN

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

The City of Northampton, Office of Planning and Development, will hold the following public hearings in order to plan and implement the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development, Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for the program year beginning July 1, 2007 for the purpose described:

PUBLIC HEARING: Housing, Homelessness and Public Services Needs Assessment
DATE & TIME: Tuesday, March 6, 2007 @ 6:00pm
LOCATION: Council Chambers – Pulchalski Municipal Building, 212 Main Street

PUBLIC HEARING: Non-Housing Community and Economic Development Needs Assessment
DATE & TIME: Tuesday, March 6, 2007 @ 7:00pm
LOCATION: Council Chambers – Pulchalski Municipal Building, 212 Main Street

PUBLIC HEARING: Presentation of the draft CDBG Action Plan
DATE & TIME: Tuesday, April 10, 2007 @ 6:00pm
LOCATION: City Hall Room 18 (2nd Floor), 210 Main Street

All interested groups, persons and agencies are encouraged to attend public hearings; information presented shall include:

(1) Recent and past performance of Northampton's CDBG program; (2) housing, homelessness and public service needs; (3) non-housing community and economic development needs, (4) a draft Action Plan.

Individuals, groups or agencies unable to attend the public hearings may submit written comments to the Office of Planning & Development, City Hall – 210 Main Street, Northampton, MA 01060, Attention: Michael T. Owens, Community Development Administrator; or electronically to mowens@northamptonma.gov

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The City of Northampton, Office of Planning and Development, has issued a Request for Proposals for the use of CDBG funds for the program year beginning July 1, 2007. Activities proposed for funding must meet one of three national objectives of the CDBG program which are: (1) activities benefiting persons of low and moderate income; (2) activities which prevent or eliminate slums and blight; and (3) activities meeting a community development need having a particular urgency because conditions pose a serious and immediate threat to the health or welfare of the community

and other financial resources are not available to meet such needs. Proposed activities, which fail to meet the applicable tests for meeting a national objective, are ineligible for CDBG funding.

Request for Proposals (RFP) are available upon request from the City of Northampton, Block Grant Office, at (413) 587-1286. RFP's may also be printed from the Northampton Office of Planning & Development web site.

The deadline for submission of completed RFP's is Monday, March 12, 2007 at 4:30pm.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PRIORITY NEEDS

The following needs have been identified as priorities for CDBG resources:

Housing Needs / Rental assistance, homeowner housing rehabilitation and repair, preservation and creation of affordable rental housing stock, creation of affordable units for homeownership, housing support services, support of the homeless sheltering system, housing for special needs populations and transitional housing for families and special needs populations.

Non-Housing Community Development Needs / Adequate public facilities in CDBG target neighborhoods, public services focusing on basic needs, language, literacy and youth services, removal of architectural barriers within public buildings, public infrastructure, construction of a full service senior center, improvements to public infrastructure including streets, sidewalks, streetscapes, water and sewer facilities, professional land use planning which controls development and preserves quality of life, and programs which provide for social needs while contributing to the social fabric of City neighborhoods.

Economic Development Needs / Job opportunities for low and moderate income person, technical assistance and general support to eligible micro business enterprises, commercial and industrial infrastructure, employment and job training services.

DRAFT ACTION PLAN

On April 10, 2007 the City of Northampton, Office of Planning & Development, will release the draft CDBG Action Plan for public review and comment; the plan shall outline proposed activities for program Year 24 beginning July 1, 2007. A summary of the draft Action Plan shall also be published in a newspaper of local circulation; posted in City Hall and made available at the Northampton Office of Planning & Development web site.

For additional information including available resources, eligible activities, the RFP process; and preparation of the annual Action Plan, contact Michael T. Owens, Community Development Administrator at (413) 587-1254.

E-mail: mowens@northamptonma.gov

Northampton Planning Development web site: www.northamptonma.gov/opd/

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BY: Michael T. Owens, Community Development Administrator